PMT 5/20/64

A Tense Cuba Is Alerted for Exile's Landing

By David Kraslow
The Los Angeles Times

MIAMI, May 19 — Cuban Premier Castro prepared today for the well advertised launching of a counter-revolution against his government by partly mobilizing his nation.

Informed sorces here noted firm evidence of increasing tension in Cuba as the deadline approached Wednesday—Cuba's independence anniversary—for the promised return of Manual Ray, former member of Castro's cabinet and leader of the exile organization Revolutionary Junta (Jure).

Ray, top figure in the Havana underground during Castro's revolution against Fulgencio Batista, was reliably reported to be at sea, en route to Cuba. It was believed he was accompanied by a handful of trained saboteurs and Guerrilla fighters.

The spectacle of possibly five or six men has its comic opera potential.

But, while the circumstances may be vastly different, perhaps Castro is recalling his own modest beginnings. It was on Dec. 2, 1956, that Castro and 11 others made it ashore in southern Cuba after sailing from Mexico in a converted yacht.

Miami's Cuban exile colony is already off on an emotional binge despite repeated warnings by Ray's associates that he has promised nothing more than a small beginning and even before confirmation of his arrival in Cuba.

The latest of many unsubstantiated reports that have flashed through the exile community was a published story that six bridges in Cuba had been blown up by commandos of the Revolutionary Recovery Movement. But it was quickly denied at MRR headquarters here.

The MRR is headed by Manuel Artime, political leader of the brigade that attempted to invade Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

Ray's Jure adheres to a left-wing anti-Communist philosophy. MRR is the centrist group that staged a hit-and-run raid on a Cuban sugar mill last Wednesday.

Observers had anticipated that rival exile groups would become active as Ray's landing date neared.

One informed source, assessing the reaction inside Cuba to Ray's apparently imminent arrival, said Ray "already has achieved a great deal psychologically.

"There is great stirring in Cuba. The people are excited and alerted. Castro has mobilized his forces, but he also has succeeded in mobilizing the opposition within Cuba.

"It now depends on Ray's ability to follow through," he said.

Ray went underground after he broke with Castro in October, 1959. His strategy is to rebuild that underground and launch what he anticipates will be a long-range campaign of guerrilla fighting and sabotage.

The Jure organization includes perhaps 100 or more former members of Castro's army. Some of these are understood to have already infilstrated into Cuba to prepare for their chief's arrival.

Cuba Raps U.S. On Medicine Limit

Reuters

HAVANA, May 19—The Cuban government last night denounced the U.S. decision to restrict export of medicines to Cuba as an "act lacking all moral, political or human justification."

In a note to the State Department sent through the Swiss Embassy in Havana, Foreign Minister Raul Roa protested against what he termed "this new aggression against our people."

The note said the previous American policy of excluding food and medicine from the trade embargo on Cuba was a "cynical" attempt by the U.S. Government "to disguise its unscrupulousness in the fiction that it could not be so low and inhuman as to prohibit the export of food and medicine to another country."

But now the U.S. Government had "unmasked itself completely" and shown to the world "not only the failure of its policy towards Cuba but also its inhuman and criminal heart," the note said.

The U.S. Commerce Department announced May 14 that henceforth a licence would be required for getting food and medicine to Cuba.

ABC Group Elects

James F. Ervin, director of the Montomery County Department of Liquor Control, has been named president of the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association, Inc. The Association represents states that have government-controlled stores.

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